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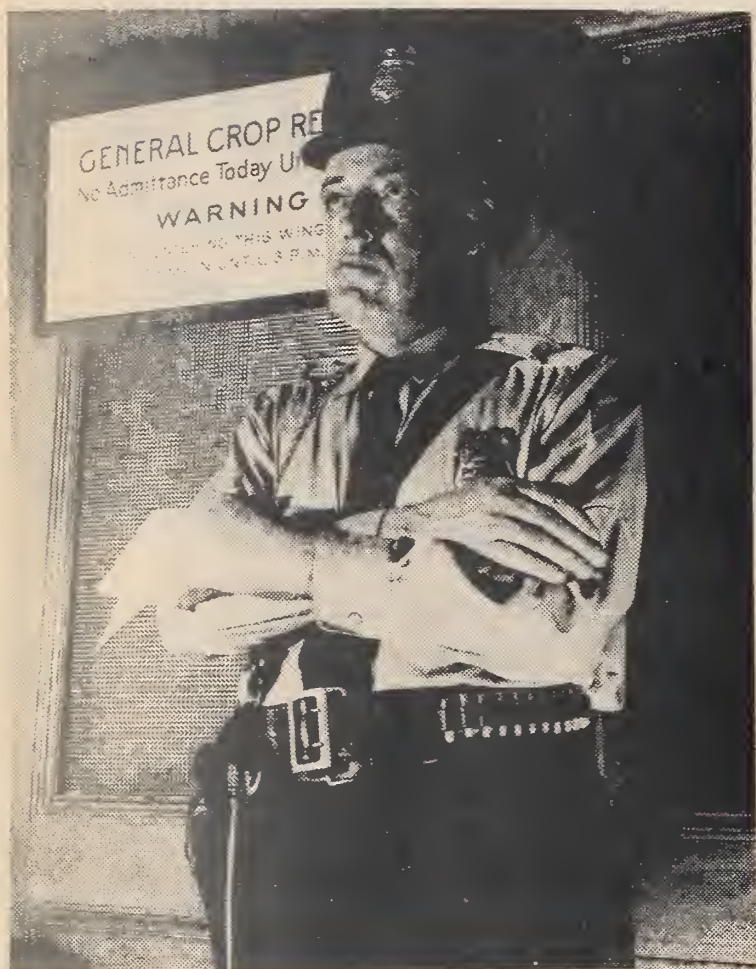
Marketing Activities

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Secrecy is the byword of the Crop Reporting Board -- until the completed report is ready for release -- and trying to get in or out past this guard is just a waste of time.

One of the Crop Reporting Board's most important reports of the year is released on July 10. With the exception of cotton, the July report summarizes by States the official forecasts of acreage, yield per acre, and production of the important field crops. Also included are a forecast of fruit production and an estimate of grain stocks on farms July 1. The next few pages briefly outline the way the crop reports are prepared.

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THE CROP REPORTING BOARD AND
THE FARMERS SWAP INFORMATION

. By W. F. Callander

Once a month--sometimes twice--a section of the Department of Agriculture Building at Washington is cut off from all contact with the outside world. Doors are tightly locked and armed guards are posted to make sure that no information--or people--get out until a specified time. Venetian blinds are lowered and sealed. Telephones are disconnected. Working at top speed in their isolated quarters, the trained statisticians of the Government's Crop Reporting Board take the averages of thousands of reports from crop correspondents all over the country and glean from them an estimate of the Nation's supplies and prospective supplies of food and fiber.

With the seconds ticking away, the various tables--after checking and re-checking to avoid all possibility of mathematical error--are quickly run off on mimeograph machines. A few minutes before the hour set for release--11 a.m. for cotton, 3 p.m. for other crops--the doors open and a group of men, headed by the chairman of the Crop Reporting Board, carry the reports down the hall under guard to a room lined with telephone and telegraph instruments. Waiting there--behind a white line painted on the floor--are reporters, telegraph operators, and messengers. Face down before each instrument the chairman lays a copy of the report. Everybody watches the clock. As the hands reach the hour set for release the chairman cries "Go!" Scrambling quickly to the instruments, the men telephone or telegraph the important figures from the report--official figures that indicate the size or prospective size of Uncle Sam's crops--to the newspapers and markets of the world.

There is a reason for the secrecy that surrounds the preparation of the crop reports. Prepared at Government expense, the reports are issued for the benefit of the general public. Advance information on the contents of the crop report might be used by unscrupulous persons to further their own interests at the expense of farmers and consumers. A special Act of Congress prohibits any employee concerned in the preparation of Government crop reports from speculating in any "product of the soil" and thereby becoming financially interested in the effects of the crop reports on market prices, knowingly compiling or issuing any false statistics, and furnishing any information, directly or indirectly, concerning a forthcoming crop report in advance of the time specified by the Secretary of Agriculture for the publication of the report. The penalty for a violation of this statute is a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 10 years, or both.

<p>W. F. Callander often regrets that he is responsible for telling the farmers that large crops are in prospect. But facts are facts, he maintains, and official Government estimates--based on information furnished by the farmers themselves--have proved to be the most accurate. Mr. Callander has been Chairman of the Crop Reporting Board since 1922, with the exception of a brief period during which he served as Assistant Administrator and Comptroller of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.--Ed.</p>



Each month 200,000 crop reporters fill out the schedules that are the background for the general crop reports. W.P. Hunter, Beallsville, Md. reporter, furnishes information on crop conditions in his locality.



In the field offices, the reports are tabulated, averaged, and analyzed. C.E. Burkhead and Paul L. Warner, using a special "sampling" technique, quickly interpret the reporters' schedules in terms of acres, bushels, tons, and pounds. The College Park, Maryland office is only one of 41 field offices.

The monthly crop reports actually have their beginning back on the farm. The men and women who plant and reap the crops--who have a first-hand knowledge of agricultural conditions in their locality--furnish the information that makes the reports possible. Each month 200,000 farmers sit down and answer the questions asked on the green schedule and related inquiries of the Crop Reporting Board. A much larger number report on the acreage and livestock surveys, which are made with the help of the Post Office Department.

Crop Reporters Are Not Paid

The crop reporters are a fairly representative cross-section of American rural life. Some of them live in the dairy sections of the Northeast. Others grow cotton in the Old South. Still others derive their livelihood from the apple and peach orchards of the Pacific Northwest. Though they report voluntarily--none of them are paid--they strike a splendid bargain with the Department of Agriculture. In exchange for information covering their own small community, they receive a report that condenses into usable form the operations of thousands of farmers in other parts of the country--farmers who are competing with them for the Nation's markets. Some of these crop reporters have been mailing their schedules to the Department of Agriculture for fifty years or more. And frequently the title of crop reporter is passed down from father to son.

The crop reporting service itself dates back to the Civil War period. In 1863 Commissioner Newton, first head of the new Department of Agriculture, began to collect information on food and feed supplies--information vitally necessary to a Nation at war. He got the names of farmers from Members of Congress and mailed out his brief questionnaires. Replies came in, weeks later, from about 2,000 farmers scattered throughout 22 northern States. The scheme worked well enough, in Commissioner Newton's opinion, to continue the service on a monthly basis from May through October. Crop reporters were asked to make only two observations: the acreage of land sown to major crops in 1863 compared with that sown in 1862, and the appearance of the crops in the months under report.

This scant information, of course, would be wholly inadequate today. The schedule covering crop conditions as of July 1, 1940, for example, carried questions pertaining to condition or probable yield of 21 crops; farm stocks of corn, wheat, oats, and hay; average weight per fleece of wool; milk and egg production; and farm labor. It is estimated that approximately 2,400 different forms of inquiry and over 10 million copies of such forms will be sent out this year to obtain necessary information on which to base the official reports. Various lists of establishments, such as cold-storage warehouses, canning companies, packing plants, mills and elevators, and other plants and factories, probably will account for 30,000 or more responses.

Field Offices Are "Listening Posts"

As a general rule, reporters do not mail the questionnaires directly to Washington. The monthly crop schedules, for example, are mailed in franked envelopes to the respective field offices--the "listen-



The Crop Reporting Board brings together the State estimates. All available information is carefully reviewed before the report is released.



On the stroke of 3, the general crop report is released to the newspapers and markets of the world. The cotton crop report is released at 11. Telephone, telegraph, radio, and the mails all play a part in the prompt dissemination of crop production estimates.

ing posts" of the Crop Reporting Board. There are 41 of these offices throughout the country--each manned by two or more agricultural statisticians and a clerical staff. In a number of States, the field offices function under a cooperative arrangement between the Federal and State Governments--a setup that makes for better service and less expense than would be the case if each endeavored to function alone. In the field offices the reports are sorted and tabulated by counties and districts. State averages are worked out for each crop and the results are carefully analyzed by the Federal-State statistician, who has a first-hand knowledge of crop conditions in his State gained through numerous trips through the producing sections. After the averages have been analyzed in the light of known conditions, they are mailed to Washington, D. C., together with the statistician's recommendations.

In Washington, the information is sent directly to a vault at the office of the Secretary of Agriculture and placed in a special mail box that has two locks. The key to one lock is held by the Secretary and the other is in the keeping of the Crop Reporting Board's Chairman. On the morning of the crop report day, members of the Board--accompanied by a guard--take the envelopes from the Secretary's office to the rooms of the Crop Reporting Board for further study from a Nation-wide standpoint. These deliberations, of course, are conducted in absolute secrecy, and the completed report is released at a date and hour prescribed by law and official regulations.

Crop Reports Have Wide Use

People frequently ask: "What good are the reports after they are released? We know that agricultural statistics must be valuable as a historical record of the Nation's agricultural production, but do the reports have any important practical value?"

Crop reports have many valuable current uses. In the first place, the availability of unbiased official estimates discourages the issuance of false and misleading statements by unscrupulous persons who have a financial interest in the crops. On June 10, the Crop Reporting Board estimated the 1940 wheat crop at 728 million bushels--a little smaller than the 1939 crop and a little below average. The Kansas farmer, coming to the elevator with his wheat, has at his disposal exactly the same production information as the elevator operator. The buyer knows this and the price paid for the wheat will include a fair appraisal of the supply and prospective supply. But if the crop reports were not available, the story might easily be different.

The "prospective plantings" report, issued early in the spring, is widely used as a guide to planting operations. It shows rather accurately the approximate acreage farmers intend to plant to each crop. The New York potato grower, for instance, noting that growers in other States intend to plant an unusually large acreage of potatoes, is able to shift into another crop that may bring a relatively higher return.

Uncertainty always restricts the operations of business and leads to speculation. Government crop reports, by reducing uncertainty, tend to

reduce speculation as knowledge always reduces risk. If production is estimated with a high degree of accuracy, legitimate buyers in competition with each other can afford to pay higher prices and to handle for less margin.

Most important of all, perhaps, Government crop reports provide a fair, unbiased basis for the market prices of farm products. This is a direct benefit to every producer, distributor, and consumer, regardless of whether they ever see the reports or make individual use of them.

Crop reports have other--more special--uses. Banking institutions study the Government estimates of crop acreage and crop prospects as a guide to the demand for funds they may be called upon to advance for financing farmers through the producing and marketing seasons. Railroads use the crop reports as a guide in allocating the supply of freight cars. Sales departments of large concerns use the estimates to spot areas of rural prosperity. And other Government agencies find the crop reports indispensable for planning production and marketing programs.

A few farmers, strangely enough, occasionally criticize the reports. One farmer not so long ago demanded that the Government provide a stiff fine for the issuance of any crop production report. He argued that large crops ought to be kept secret--that calling attention to their size only helped to depress prices still further. He had entirely lost sight of the fact that most people already know when a crop is large. What they do not know is how large it is until the Crop Reporting Board provides that information. The uncertainty surrounding the actual size of the large crop depresses prices much more than the actual estimate--no matter how startling that estimate might be.

Crop Reports Must Be Accurate

Every precaution is taken to make the reports accurate. Official estimates that tended to inflate the actual size of the crop would work a direct hardship on farmers, and indirectly on those who sell goods to farmers, by causing a lower price to growers than would have been the case if the size of crops had been accurately known at the time of sale. Farmers seldom benefit materially from the high prices paid late in the marketing season because the product has usually left their hands before that time. On the other hand, official reports that regularly understate the size of the crops are not advantageous to farmers for buyers would soon learn to allow for any constant understatement of this kind in the official estimates. It is likely that lower prices would be paid for subsequent crops even when the estimates had become more accurate.

Government crop reports are remarkably accurate, considering that they are not complete enumerations such as the Bureau of the Census takes every 5 years. A census, after the enumeration is completed, takes about 2 years to release. The crop reports, through the use of a special "sampling" technique, are released about 10 days or less after the reporter fills out his questionnaire. Even so, the margin of error, as checked against census and other information, rarely exceeds 5 percent.

The monthly crop reports represent only a fraction of the information collected and disseminated by the Crop Reporting Board. Special reporters furnish data that becomes the basis for reports on livestock, commercial truck crops, stocks of farm commodities, disposition of agricultural products, cold storage holdings, seed production, and hatchery chicks. From information furnished by the crop reporters--but not included in the monthly crop report--come reports on milk and dairy products, poultry and eggs, prices received and paid by farmers, and farm labor. The number and completeness of agricultural reports issued by the United States Department of Agriculture have no equal in any other country of the world.

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EARLY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY LETTERS

SHOW NEED FOR ADEQUATE CROP REPORTS

Letters of James T. Earle, president of the Maryland Agricultural Society, indicate that as early as 1839 farmers were concerned about the profits made by dealers and speculators in farm products through the circulation of misleading reports of crop production. Considerable discussion developed on the possibility of obtaining adequate and accurate information on crop conditions before the crops had gone to market. Sixteen years later--in 1855--the situation had not been remedied and Earle sent the following letter to presidents of other State societies:

Dear Sir: For the promotion of the farming interest of the country, we are anxious to procure the earliest reliable information possible of the crops, that the same may be laid before the farmer to guide him in the selection of the best time to dispose of the fruits of his labors. The duty should properly be imposed upon an agricultural department of the general government; but in the absence of such provision, and in view of the artful practices of speculators and others, operating most disastrously through the base venality of the public press, upon this leading interest, the obligation is devolved upon us. * * *

Let us have gentlemen of intelligence and reliable judgment in each county of our respective States, connected not only by position as officers, but by interest, too, with our State societies, that we may have a right to call on for information touching the crops of their different localities. They can be directed to forward their reports to some selected officer, whose duty it should be to collate them and disseminate the information thus deduced through the public press, and by circulars transmitted to each of the State Agricultural Societies of the Union.

The early efforts of men like Earle helped lay the foundation for the extensive crop reporting service of today.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO GROWERS
VOTE ON MARKETING JULY 20

A marketing quota referendum among growers of flue-cured tobacco will be held on July 20, the Department of Agriculture announced recently. Representative growers, warehousemen, and businessmen of the flue-cured tobacco area requested a vote before the market opens, and suggested July 20 as the date.

Present stocks of bright tobacco are the largest of record as a result of the huge 1939 crop and sharply reduced exports. Indications are that the July 1 carry-over will be about 1,425 million pounds.

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1940 PIG CROP MAY BE 10 PERCENT
UNDER 1939; SOUTH LEADS DECLINE

The 1940 pig crop will be materially smaller than that of 1939--the peak of the production cycle--but will be larger than any crop since 1933, the Agricultural Marketing Service points out in its June Pig Crop Report. The actual reduction may be as much as 10 percent. Reason: The spring pig crop is estimated to be 8 percent smaller than in 1939; the total number of sows to farrow in 1940--spring and fall--is also down 8 percent; and litters have averaged the smallest in the last 4 years. In actual numbers, the combined spring and fall crops may total about 75,800,000 head.

The spring pig crop was smaller this year in all regions and in nearly all States, with the South showing the sharpest decline. By regions the decreases were: North Atlantic, 9 percent; East North Central, 1 percent; West North Central, 7 percent; South Atlantic, 19 percent; South Central, 20 percent; and Western, 7 percent.

The average number of pigs saved per litter in the spring season of 1940 was 6.01 for the United States, compared with 6.12 in 1939 and with 6.36 in 1938, which was the largest of record. The small average this year, the report states, was probably a result of unusually low temperatures during the late winter and early spring in the Eastern Corn Belt States and in nearly all of the Southern States.

The June Pig Crop Report is based upon about 166,000 reports obtained from farmers in cooperation with the Post Office Department's rural mail carriers.

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The general level of prices received by farmers for products sold in local farm markets throughout the country declined 3 points from May 15 to June 15 to the lowest level since the outbreak of hostilities in Europe last September. Mid-June prices of farm products averaged 95 percent of their August 1909-July 1914 level, compared with 98 a month earlier and 89 on June 15, 1939. Prices paid by farmers for commodities bought averaged unchanged from May 15 to June 15 at 123 percent of the 1910-14 level.

THE GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTS
WITH "CONTINUOUS INSPECTION"

. By Paul M. Williams

In four canning plants this year--one in Michigan, two in California, and one in New York--inspectors of the Agricultural Marketing Service are observing the preparation and packing of certain food products at each step in the canning process. Called "continuous inspection," such lots as are sold by the canner for labeling in the terms of the U. S. grades will bear the grade statement incorporated in the shield insignia authorized for this purpose. The new service, on an experimental basis at the present time, was developed at the request of certain members of the canning industry.

The plants of canners participating in this experiment have been thoroughly inspected to make sure that sanitary conditions meet the rigid requirements of the Service. Good housekeeping rules have been laid down and one of the inspector's duties is to see that the rules are strictly observed. All employees who handle food must have passed a physical examination and products are carefully inspected for wholesomeness and quality as they are packed into the cans.

Only canned products packed under the continuous inspection service can carry the prefix "U.S." in connection with the grade designation. When the grade is indicated on the label such as "U.S. Grade A (Fancy)" it is accompanied with the statement "this product was packed under the continuous inspection of Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the above grade officially certified." When the grade statement is not desired the canners are permitted to use the statement "this product was packed under the continuous inspection of Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture."

Containers Bear U. S. D. A. Shield

In order to leave no loophole that might destroy the integrity of the U. S. grade label, an outline of the shield of the Department is embossed in all cans packed in factories under continuous inspection bearing the grade legend. It is blown in the bottom of glass containers packed in these plants. The expense of the inspection is borne by the canner who is required to pay to the Government an amount equal to the inspectors' salaries, incidental expenses, and an agreed-upon amount for administrative overhead.

Any canner may label his products with the terms "Grade A," "Grade B," or "Grade C," or "Fancy," "Extra Standard" or "Choice," and "Standard" without the prefix "U.S." provided his merchandise meets the requirements of the grade claimed. It has been very interesting to note the extreme care and caution

PAUL M. WILLIAMS has been in charge of canned fruit and vegetable inspection work for the Department of Agriculture since the inspection service was started in 1931. Realizing that human judgment is susceptible of error, he has helped to develop a number of scientific instruments for measuring quality in canned products. One instrument, simulating to some extent the chewing action of human teeth, measures the toughness of corn kernels.--Ed.
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taken by those labeling their products in the terms of the Government grades to make certain that they meet the grade claimed on the label; consumers can buy grade labeled goods--with or without the "U.S." prefix--with complete confidence.

The Agricultural Marketing Service is deeply interested in finding new ways to assist in the marketing of agricultural products. It has long been the feeling of many members of the canning industry that the volume of canned products consumed by the American public and in export channels could be increased. Many of them believe that this increase can be brought about by giving consumers definite assurance of the quality of the products they buy. A logical economical method by which the consumers may be informed is by conveying such information through grade designation on the label. Every statement on a label must be truthful, otherwise the product would be misbranded. For that reason, in the continuous inspection experiment the statements on all labels bearing the Government insignia must have been approved by the Department of Agriculture.

In contrast, there are some in the trade who feel that labels should carry a minimum amount of information. They contend that the integrity of the vendor is behind the brand name, which should afford sufficient assurance to the consumer. Doubtless many consumers are satisfied to have such assurance. Many are not.

The Department feels that it should not leave unexplored any field in which there is possibility of finding a wider acceptance for agricultural products. By joining hands with organizations desiring to afford the consumer this new type of information the Department expects to investigate thoroughly the possibility of new business for these industries.

In order to determine the consumer reaction to this type of labeling, it is planned to conduct inquiries among consumers in several important markets in the United States this winter. These studies will be conducted by home economic groups in certain State universities. If the consumer acceptance is such as to warrant further exploration into these fields, the experiment may be widened. On the other hand, if the idea serves no good purpose this type of experiment will be abandoned immediately.

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An amendment to the standard of identity for canned tomatoes, permitting the use of calcium chloride as an optional ingredient, will become effective September 17. The amendment, which specifies the label statement to be used when calcium chloride is present, was formulated on the basis of evidence submitted at a public hearing held on May 2, 1940, under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

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Commodity Credit Corporation announced recently that under the cotton exchange program terminated at noon, May 15, 1940, it had accepted proposals from 23 cotton firms to exchange 227,800 bales of high grade cotton for 264,600 bales of lower-grade, Government-owned cotton.

PARACHUTISTS TRAINED-- TO FIGHT FOREST FIRES

Parachute fighters have already made their appearance in this country, although strictly speaking they are fire fighters. Tests made by the U.S. Forest Service in the Chelan National Forest in Washington last fall with a crew of parachute jumpers indicated the practicability of dropping fire-fighters from airplanes to put out small fires in some of the inaccessible back-country areas of the national forests.

The "smoke jumpers" use a specially designed parachute that has a rate of descent of about 12 feet per second and permits a certain amount of steering toward the landing spot. A special 'chute harness and protective suit and headgear were also developed to so protect the jumpers that they can land almost anywhere at any elevation--in tall trees or open spaces, or on rough ridges. Jumpers who went down into stands of young lodgepole pine last fall christened them "featherbed landings" because the young pines will catch a parachute readily and absorb most of the shock on their bending, swaying tops. In order to facilitate descent from tall trees, the jumpers carry a coil of light strong rope.

A new lightweight radiophone has also been developed so that the smoke jumper can keep in touch with the plane pilot and with his headquarters when he reaches the ground. A small number of complete units of equipment have already been purchased, the Forest Service reports, and these will be used to train smoke jumpers in actual work on forest fires this summer. The work will begin at once in national forests in the northern Rockies and northern Cascades of Montana and Washington.

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FREIGHT RATES ADVANCE FASTER THAN PRICES OF PERISHABLE FARM PRODUCTS

Indices of railroad freight rates on perishable farm products, issued recently by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, show that rates on fresh fruits and potatoes average lower now than during the decade of the 1920's, but continue relatively high as compared with the prices received by producers of these products. Rates on truck crops other than potatoes are the highest since 1920.

The national averages of published rates on perishables in 1938, when an increase of 5 percent on agricultural products was authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission, were 17 to 51 percent higher than in 1913. Averages for fruits and potatoes were lower than in 1924-29, but even on this basis were higher in relation to prices received by the producers of these products. Rates on truck crops other than potatoes were higher, actually and relatively, as compared with 1924-29.

W. O. FRASER NAMED HEAD OF AMS
LIVESTOCK, MEATS AND WOOL WORK

The appointment of W.O. Fraser as head of the Livestock, Meats and Wool Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service became effective July 1. Mr. Fraser had been associate head of the Division during the past 3 years.

C.V. Whalin, in charge of the Livestock, Meats and Wool Division for nearly 19 years, asked to be relieved of administrative responsibility. He will devote full attention to the conduct of the Division's technological investigations and research studies on meats and meat products.

Mr. Fraser has been in Government service for 16 years, largely in livestock and meat market news and standardization work. Following graduation from Iowa State College in 1922, he was employed in commercial work for 2 years before entering the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a meat market reporter in October 1924. For several years he was in charge of the Federal market news offices at Boston and Des Moines, and assistant in charge of the Division's branch office at Chicago. In January 1934 he transferred to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration where he served in an administrative capacity until April 1937.

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FARM WOMEN'S MARKET
OPENED IN NEW JERSEY

New Jersey's first rural women's market, located two miles west of Pleasantville on U.S. Route 40, was opened June 15. Throughout the summer, fruits, vegetables, poultry, eggs, flowers, and such homemade foods as cakes, pies, breads, jelly, jam, canned goods, and specialty dishes will go on sale each Saturday in an effort to supplement low farm incomes. The New Jersey venture, patterned after the highly successful Montgomery Farm Women's Market at Bethesda, Maryland, is operated entirely by 30 members of the Atlantic Farm Woman's Cooperative Market Association.

Each association member owns two shares of stock purchased at \$25 a share. Women unable to pay cash for their stock have received loans from the Farm Security Administration. The County Board of Agriculture has made the promotion of the market part of its Land Use Planning Program, and the association has also received close cooperation from the Agricultural Extension Service and Experiment Station, Rutgers University, the State Board of Health, the State Department of Agriculture, and other local, State, and Federal groups. Customers will be served by the association members themselves, attired in white uniforms, who will offer the products from their own farms and their own inspected kitchens at standard prices set by a special committee. Five percent of the receipts will be deducted for operating costs.

MILLING AND BAKING RESEARCH
SUPPLEMENTS AMS GRAIN TESTS

. By Ray Weaver

Wheat has been through the mill--literally--by the time Agricultural Marketing Service grain technicians have finished their grade research. For in addition to precise physical and chemical measurements of the various grade factors, the grain is ground into flour to determine its milling quality. And--as if that weren't enough--the line on wheat quality is carried through to the bakery and kitchen.

The flour mill and bakery--both miniatures of commercial plants--take up only five small rooms of the Department's South Building at Washington. But the wheat that goes into the mill is real wheat and comes out as real flour. And the bread turned out by the spotless bakery looks, tastes, and smells like "store" bread, despite all of the scientific controls that guide its making.

This research has as one of its objectives a more precise interpretation of the Federal wheat standards. The standards themselves are based on certain definite grade factors that determine the value of wheat, test weight per bushel, damaged kernels, foreign material, moisture content, the class of the grain, and mixtures of other classes. To these factors are added the general condition of the grain--whether it is musty, sour, heating, cool, or sweet. Other important factors in measuring the quality of wheat are color, the presence of smut, ergot, garlic bulbs, stones, and insects. All of these factors modify the value of wheat by the extent to which they affect the end products of wheat--flour and the foods made from that flour.

"Class" Is Important

"Class," for example, is extremely important to millers because different classes of wheat produce flours of different types. Today's wheat standards provide several classifications to meet the requirements of mills making the speciality flours demanded by the baking trade and by homemakers. In all, 7 classes of wheat are now provided in the grain standards: Hard Red Spring, Durum, Red Durum, Hard Red Winter, Soft Red Winter, White, and Mixed. Some of these classes are divided further into subclasses based on various characteristics.

The laboratory men have learned a great deal about the adaptability of the classes for different baking purposes. Hard Red Spring Wheat and Hard Red Winter Wheat are especially suited for the making of bread flour. These two

RAY WEAVER estimates that all of the bread he has baked--if laid end to end--would reach from here to there. That is understandable for baking has been his job for 22 years--6 with a commercial concern in the Middle West and 16 in the Department of Agriculture's Washington laboratory. He is convinced that grain marketing has steadily increased in efficiency as laboratory research in the grade factors has led to a more practical interpretation of the grain standards.--Ed.

wheats contain a lot of elastic gluten--an essential substance in making a bread that meets with public favor. Durum wheat, on the other hand, is used for making semolina--especially suited for the manufacture of macaroni, spaghetti, and vermicelli. Durum wheat (not Red Durum) contains a relatively high percentage of gluten, and the amber vitreous kernels are well adapted for the manufacture of semolina. Soft Red Winter and White Wheat flours--usually low in protein content--are best for making crackers, biscuits, pastry, and cakes.

Some of the most highly advertised commercial flours, however, may be manufactured from blends of various classes of wheat. These blends vary with the manufacturers and give flours the distinctive characteristics associated with the different brand names. For this reason, millers make every effort to keep the blends uniform from season to season.

Milling Practices Vary

But the milling operations that go into the production of flour may vary considerably between millers. In general, however, milling has one basic objective--the separation of the starchy portion of the grain from the outer husk or bran portion. The Department's three small mills each with 3 or more "breaks" provide facilities for duplicating commercial flour production.

Good flour making depends upon a gradual separation of the wheat meal into bran, shorts, and flour. Completely pulverizing the grain in one operation cuts the bran too fine and makes it impossible to separate it from the flour. In the Department's milling laboratory, the wheat is first cracked into comparatively large particles in a corrugated-roll grinder. These particles are shaken through a sifter that separates, through the use of progressively smaller screens, the bran, shorts, and flour.

But the bran that remains after the first break has not yielded all of its flour. With the corrugated rollers set a little closer together, the bran is again run through the rolls. The second-break meal is also sifted and yields more flour. This process is continued until the bran has been cleaned 3 or more times and will yield no more acceptable flour.

The finer screens of the sifter, however, have caught a considerable quantity of "middlings"--finer particles that contain a high percentage of flour. The middlings are run through smooth rolls, reducing the flour to a velvety softness and the sifter takes off the coarse particles or shorts. The heaviest flour yield is obtained on the first reduction of the middlings. This flour, being nearest to the center of the kernel, is also the whitest and starchiest--"high patent" the millers call it. From 3 to 5 reducing operations are required to separate the last of the flour from the middlings.

Milling Operations Controlled

All of these milling operations are carefully controlled. Starting out with 1,500 grams of wheat--about 3 1/3 pounds--the quantity of

"straight" flour, bran, and shorts obtained in the milling process is carefully calculated. A straight flour generally represents about 70 percent of the original weight of the wheat, although this may vary slightly according to variety and other factors. Records are also kept of milling losses at various steps in the flour-making process. The finished flour is packed in a carefully labeled metal container and goes through 3 weeks' storage at room temperature.

The grade factors of wheat have a significant bearing on the milling quality. Test weight per bushel, for example, is an important index of the pounds of flour that may be milled from a bushel of wheat. Too much moisture in the grain makes it unsatisfactory to mill and the flour will not remain cool and sweet. Shrunken and broken kernels adversely affect flour yield. Foreign material in wheat, such as weed seeds or other impurities, are objectionable--milling tests show that the yield of flour made from wheat that contains rye is reduced, and the flour itself is of poor quality. In short, each factor that reduces the value of wheat has first made itself apparent in the flour or in the products made from the flour.

All of these factors are tested further in the baking laboratory. After the flour has gone through its 3-week storage period it is made into various products--each step in the baking operation scientifically controlled.

Bread--Flour, Water, Yeast, Salt, and Sugar

In the making of bread, weighed portions of flour, water, yeast, salt, and sugar are made up into dough. The dough goes into a fermentation cabinet and is allowed to remain for 3 hours at a constant temperature of 86 degrees Fahrenheit--with the exception of 2 "time-outs" for "punching"--one at the end of 105 minutes and the other of 50 minutes later. At the end of the 3-hour period--or 25 minutes after the last punching--the dough is moulded and placed in a pan. At the end of a 55-minute "proof" period, during which the dough rises to the top of the pan, the sample is ready for the oven.

The bread is oven-baked for 25 minutes at 450 degrees, the pans being on a revolving plate to insure even baking. After the bread has cooled, the volume is measured in cubic centimeters. In 24 hours the loaf is cut in half and scored for grain, texture, color of crumb, taste, and odor. Somewhat similar procedures are employed for pastry, cakes, and cookies, but special methods have been devised for testing the quality of macaroni, spaghetti, and vermicelli.

As in the case of the milling tests, baking research brings to light a number of grading factors that affect the quality of bakery products. Frosted wheat, for example, produces a flour of poor dough quality that is unsatisfactory for making bread. Heat-damaged wheat also produces a flour of poor color and of unsatisfactory bread-making qualities; the finished loaf of bread, aside from the discoloration of the crumb and reduced loaf volume, grain, and texture, possesses bad taste and color. Moldy wheat develops a musty odor that will ultimately be

transmitted to the products made from the flour. Garlicky wheat produces flour that is often tainted with a garlic odor. A number of other defects in wheat, subject to price discounts, show up in baking research.

In addition to the milling and baking laboratory at Washington, the Department of Agriculture carries on similar research at Manhattan, Kansas, primarily on Hard Red Winter Wheat. Another laboratory at Wooster, Ohio, deals principally with milling and baking studies on Soft Red Winter Wheat. All three laboratories are a cooperative project of the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Bureau of Plant Industry. The Agricultural Marketing Service uses the laboratories for grade research while the Bureau of Plant Industry analyzes new varieties developed in its test plots.

Other Research Carried On

Milling and baking research is only one phase of the Department's endless search for ways of improving the grain standards. Delicate chemical tests have been developed for measuring protein, gluten, carotene, fat acidity, ash, and granulation. Not so long ago an Agricultural Marketing Service scientist developed an "electric eye" for measuring the protein content of wheat flour. This method is believed to be much superior to present procedures, inasmuch as it does away with the necessity for cumbersome, costly equipment. Since the grain standards were first established, Department of Agriculture workers have developed a number of scientific instruments for speeding up the inspection work and for improving the standards.

The Grain Standards Act of 1916 was passed by Congress to provide a uniform basis for identifying grain quality. The standards must be used if wheat, corn, barley, oats (feed and mixed) rye, grain sorghums, flaxseed, or mixed grain are sold by grade in interstate or foreign commerce, or are traded on futures contracts. The standards, since 1916, have largely eliminated the confusion that prevailed in domestic and foreign markets from non-uniform methods of measuring grain quality.

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As a result of the war in Europe, United States farmers may be called upon to produce a larger portion of the Nation's seed supplies than they have for many years, the U. S. Department of Agriculture believes. Large supplies of a number of seeds used in this country are normally imported from countries now involved in war. Indications point to adequate 1940 seed supplies, inasmuch as imports of most seeds were not greatly restricted until the entrance of Italy into the war, but larger domestic production of many seeds will probably be necessary by 1941. Seeds chiefly affected are those of such soil conserving crops as crimson clover, white clover, ryegrass, orchard grass, and hairy vetch; and of such vegetables as spinach, cauliflower, cabbage, radishes, and carrots.

COTTON CLASSING SCHOOL TO BE
HELD AT MEMPHIS JULY 15-20

A large attendance is expected at the 10th Annual Tennessee Cotton Classing School, to be held at Memphis July 15-20. For the purpose of instructing farmers, ginnermen, buyers, warehousemen, merchants, bankers, and handlers in the grading and stapling of cotton, the school is held each year by the Agricultural Marketing Service in cooperation with the Mid-South Cotton Growers Association and the University of Tennessee Extension Service.

The program of the school will be divided in two parts: Actual grading and stapling practices under the supervision of Federal licensed classers, and lectures by prominent speakers and authorities on cotton and other problems related to the industry. The major portion of the time will be devoted to actual instruction and practice in grading and stapling.

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TOBACCO INSPECTIONS AND MARKET
NEWS EXTENDED TO NEW SECTIONS

Tobacco inspection and market news services will be extended to Valdosta, Georgia, and Live Oak, Florida, when the flue-cured auction markets open in the Southeastern area. The designation of these markets for free and mandatory inspection and market news, provided under the Tobacco Inspection Act of 1935, followed a growers' referendum held May 29 to June 1. Results of the referendum showed that 89 percent of the voting growers who patronize those markets were in favor of the Federal services.

The last referendum of the 1940 season was held June 26-29 by growers using the Shelbyville, Kentucky, Burley market, but results of the voting are not yet available.

Under the Tobacco Inspection Act of 1935, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to designate for free and mandatory inspection those markets on which the tobacco bought and sold moves in interstate commerce, provided two-thirds of the voters are in favor of the service. Voting is limited to growers patronizing the market.

A total of 44 markets have now been designated. Approximately 465 million pounds of tobacco were inspected on the auction markets served during the 1939-40 marketing season--between 25 and 30 percent of the total sold at auction.

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The purchase of 24,510,000 pounds on June 29 brought total purchases of lard and pork products for domestic relief distribution to approximately 241,000,000 pounds.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS SOUGHT ON LARD DEFINITION PROPOSAL

Comments and suggestions on the proposal of the Department of Agriculture to issue standards defining the meat food products that may be sold under the name of lard in interstate commerce will be received up to August 1, 1940, Secretary Wallace announced recently. The proposed standards would be issued under the Meat Inspection Act with the aim of increasing protection to consumers by establishing standards of uniformity and wholesomeness for products sold under the name of lard. They would provide that lard produced under Federal inspection be made from fresh fatty tissues only. Edible pork fat not measuring up to the proposed definitions of lard could be sold as "rendered pork fat" or under some similar name.

At an informal hearing on the proposal, held June 18 at the Department of Agriculture in Washington, representatives of packers, producers, and consumers discussed the proposed definitions with Department officials. Under Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard, who presided at the hearing, said that in view of requests of some packers' representatives for more time in which to consult individual companies and present more detailed evidence bearing on the proposal, the Department will defer final decision until after considering any information that may be submitted between now and the first of August.

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"KLONMORE" STRAWBERRY DEVELOPED BY LOUISIANA EXPERIMENT STATION

"Klonmore" is the official name given a new strawberry bred at the Louisiana State University Agricultural Experiment Station and now being introduced on farms throughout the Louisiana strawberry district. Its name comes from the Klondyke and Blakemore berries that were used in its development.

Tests made at the University's Experiment Station, at the Fruit and Truck Station at Hammond, and on farms over the berry district show that the Klonmore is an early producer, fruiting about 10 days earlier than the Klondyke, the variety generally grown in Louisiana. It is highly resistant to leaf spot and scorch---two diseases that cost growers about \$100,000 a year to control. A sweeter berry than the Klondyke, it holds up exceptionally well on the plant after ripening, and, because it has a high percentage of solids and less moisture, it is a good shipper.

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Total payments already disbursed and estimated to be disbursed for participation in the 1939 Agricultural Conservation Program, including national and local administrative expenses, amounted to \$520,360,802 as of April 30, 1940, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration announced recently.

BLINDFOLD TEST SHOWS ABSENCE OF FEDERAL PINEAPPLE GRADES

Directly in charge of canned food standardization work for the Agricultural Marketing Service, Paul M. Williams believes that he has more than a working knowledge of those standards. He almost knows them backward. But after reading an article that appeared in a recent issue of the New York Times, he began to wonder if his memory wasn't playing him tricks. The article described a "test" of pineapple quality.

"Nineteen housewives selected as representative consumers went cheerfully through a variation of the blindfold test on a series of products yesterday at the Hotel Commodore, where they were guests at the opening luncheon of the spring meeting of the American Marketing Association. All were invited, it was explained by Victor H. Pelz, chairman, because, although affiliated with one or more organizations, none was a 'professional clubwoman who hasn't fried an egg for years.'

"No official comment on their scores in the quiz was forthcoming from the platform, but audible though informal exclamations from the delegates made it superfluous. The assembly burst into hearty laughter on being informed that when unbranded slices of pineapple in separate dishes, carefully checked as to contents, were served to the women, sixteen of the nineteen had preferred the Grade B, by government standards, to the Grade A."

No U. S. Pineapple Grades

Williams, after a brief reference to the standards--tentative and official--was relieved to find that his memory was functioning perfectly. Pineapple grades--like the little man--just weren't there. This was pointed out in a letter to the editor of the Times.

"It may interest you to be officially informed that no U. S. grades for canned pineapple have been developed either in their tentative or permanent forms. It is not readily apparent, then, just how the statement in your paper could have been truthful. It is possible some distributor of his own volition has caused his canned pineapple to be misbranded, by making reference to a U.S. grade that does not exist.

"We are wondering if your representative, who evidently attended this meeting, would be good enough to advise us of the brand name or the distributor's name appearing on the cans of pineapple mentioned in your article, in order that such action may be taken as may appear appropriate. Your helpful cooperation will be appreciated."

The New York Times reported that their reporter had reported only what had been reported to him. The Times suggested that a letter be written to Mr. Victor H. Pelz of the American Marketing Association, who presided as chairman of the meeting the day the test was carried out, to get the brass-tack information.

So Williams, with the scent getting warmer, addressed a letter to Mr. Pelz. The reply to that letter was more enlightening.

"I must tell you how chagrined I am over my ignorance of the fact that no official grades have ever been established for pineapple. I thought they had, and the whole misunderstanding arose from that ignorance for which, of course, I am solely responsible.

"Here is the complete story of what happened:

"At the luncheon meeting of the American Marketing Association, we had as our guests 19 rather typical New York housewives. We asked them certain questions about their knowledge of what is called the consumer movement. We also put up to them some merchandise tests on hosiery, woolen fabrics for men's suiting, canned string beans and pineapple, in different colored dishes, and asked them to tell us which of the two slices they liked the best. They were told nothing as to the brand or quality of these two slices--they were simply asked to taste each and state which one they liked the better. As a matter of fact, one of the slices came from X can, the other slice came from Z can. I personally gave the instructions to the hotel kitchen staff with regard to the serving of these slices, and I can only assume that the hotel followed instructions. I did not actually watch them as they took the slices out of their respective cans and put them into the dishes which I had designated. In order to add interest to the whole proceedings, all of the guests at the luncheon, numbering over 200 were also served with the same two slices in the same kind of dishes.

"After the luncheon, in the meeting which followed, I announced the results of the vote of the 19 women. Sixteen of them had voted for the pineapple which came out of the X can; three of them voted a preference for the pineapple which came out of the Z can. In making the announcement, I said that sixteen had voted for the slice which was Grade "B" and three had voted for the slice which was Grade "A". I did not mention the name of the brand. I hope above everything else that this incident has not caused you any embarrassment. I can assure you that my face was red when I received your letter because I thought I knew a little bit, at least, about products that were under grade labels."

In a subsequent letter, Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Pelz for throwing so much light on the matter.

Innocent bystanders, the actual names of the companies who processed the two brands of pineapple--X and Z--have been deleted. At no time have they claimed that their product was packed on the basis of Federal grades, and no grade designation of any kind was shown on the cans.

The whole affair might be termed a Grade "A" mystery.

BUTTER STABILIZATION LOANS

APPROVED FOR 1940-41 PROGRAM

Approval for continuing the butter stabilization program through the 1940-41 May-April storage season was recently announced by the Department of Agriculture. Under the program, the Dairy Products Marketing Association, producers' cooperative organization, will be in a position to continue butter market stabilization operations, under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, whenever necessary during the current marketing season. The operations are made possible through a \$7,000,000 loan approved by the Commodity Credit Corporation for buying and storing up to 25 million pounds of butter.

Recommended by Secretary Wallace and approved by the President, the terms and conditions of the 1940-41 program are substantially similar to those of last season's program. Loans are secured by warehouse receipts on butter purchased. The approved program provides for flexibility, as under last season's operations, in the quantities purchased and the prices paid by the Dairy Products Marketing Association during the 1940-41 season. Purchases will be made from time to time in quantities and at prices as conditions warrant.

All butter bought by the Dairy Products Marketing Association under the Government loan program is to be held in storage available for resale to the commercial trade at prices representing a reasonable seasonal increase and at least sufficient to cover the loan value of the butter, which included the purchase price plus handling and carrying charges. Butter not resold to the commercial trade may be sold to the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation for relief distribution. There is no provision for resale to the trade of butter acquired by the FSOC, however.

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COTTON-GROWING AREAS REDISTRICTED

FOR GRADE AND STAPLE STATISTICS

Redistricting of the cotton-growing areas for obtaining information on which to base grade and staple statistics has been announced by the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Formerly the districts were based primarily on soil areas, whereas the new districts are based on a careful study of all pertinent phases of cotton production in each of the cotton-producing States. Among the factors considered in redistricting were statistical sampling, time of ginning, concentration of acreage and production, rainfall, length of growing season, similarity of quality, and soils.

Districts for most of the States have been simplified and reduced in number, and in most cases differ widely from those previously used. But districts in Texas, Arizona, California, and New Mexico were not changed.

SURPLUS MARKETING ADMINISTRATION ISSUES NEW CHICK HATCHERY SURVEY

The hatchery industry has come a long way since Jacob Graves of Boston first offered baby chicks for sale in 1873. In the "Chick Hatchery Survey," authors W.D. Termohlen, C.C. Warren, and G.G. Lamson state that about 782 million chicks were hatched in commercial establishments during the 1937-38 season--the period covered by the survey. Most of the development has taken place since 1900, the Surplus Marketing Administration poultry specialists point out.

The bulletin, well-illustrated by graphs and maps, covers all important aspects of the hatchery industry--the development, geographic distribution, production, season of operation, and interstate shipments. Also included are figures showing the percentage of hatcheries selling sex-separated chicks. The art of sex determination of day-old chicks has been practised for centuries by the Chinese, the report states, though it is a comparatively recent development in this country.

Copies of the bulletin--"Chick Hatchery Survey, 1937-38"--may be obtained upon request to the Surplus Marketing Administration, Washington, D. C.

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ENFORCEMENT OF TWO ACTS TRANSFERRED TO AMS JUNE 30

Enforcement of the Insecticide Act and the Naval Stores Act was taken over June 30 by the Agricultural Marketing Service. The two Acts were formerly administered by the Food and Drug Administration, transferred to the Federal Security Agency under the provisions of Reorganization Plan IV.

The Insecticide Act of 1910 was enacted to prevent the manufacture, sale, and transportation in interstate commerce of adulterated or misbranded insecticides and fungicides and their importation and exportation. Dr. C.C. McDonnell, immediately in charge of the administration of the Act, will continue his work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture begun in 1907.

The Naval Stores Act provides for the establishment of standards and standard grades for turpentine and rosin; for the control of shipments and sale of these commodities to prevent mislabeled or adulterated products from moving in interstate commerce; and for the inspection and grading of naval stores at the cost of the person or organization requesting the service. V. E. Grotlisch will act in charge of administration of the Act. Mr. Grotlisch came with the Department of Agriculture in 1914.

Administration of the Naval Stores Act is distinct from the naval stores conservation program, which is authorized by the Agricultural Adjustment Act and administered by the Forest Service.

FARM PRODUCT EXPORT OUTLOOK UNFAVORABLE

The European War has made the farm product export outlook increasingly unfavorable, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. Latest available figures show sharp decreases in exports of pork, lard, wheat, fruits, tobacco, and cotton. The belligerents have practically ceased buying our agricultural products, and the neutral countries in Europe have been largely shut off as export outlets. Later in the year, the volume of our exports of some farm products--especially pork, and dairy products such as evaporated and condensed milk--may increase from current levels. Even so, this cannot be counted upon to add materially to farm prices and incomes. The outlook from practically every angle is unfavorable.

Exports of fresh fruits, tobacco, and wheat were sharply curtailed during the first eight months of the war, though exports of cotton, hog products, soybeans, dried beans, and canned vegetables were increased. But practically all of the gains in exports were in the early months of the war; more recently the shipments of all products have declined.

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FRANCE HAS BEEN GOOD BUYER OF UNITED STATES FARM PRODUCTS

The United States would lose its fifth best customer for farm products if France should be cut off from American markets, the Department of Agriculture's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations announced recently. During 1938 and 1939, when the value of farm products shipped to France accounted for almost 5 percent of our total farm export business, France was fifth among world outlets for United States farm products, and third in Europe, after the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

The outstanding item in our agricultural export trade with France is cotton. During the first 8 months of the war in Europe, France took twice as much American cotton as in all of 1938, bringing its takings back to about the normal of recent years--700,000 bales. This resulted in a big increase in the value of United States Agricultural exports to France during September-April 1939-40 over the same months in 1938-39, though during this period France took virtually no other United States farm products. After cotton, next in importance were fresh apples and pears, prunes, leaf tobacco, citrus fruit, and raisins.

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The total supply of feed grains may be slightly smaller this year than last, but it will be more than enough for the number of livestock on farms this fall and winter, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicates in a recent analysis of the feed situation.

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LOUISIANA PRODUCES MORE COTTON ON LESS ACREAGE

Heavier cotton yields being obtained by Louisiana farmers have more than offset reductions made in cotton acreage during the past 7 years, says J.W. Bateman, director of the Louisiana State University agricultural extension division. Director Bateman points out that although the acreage planted to cotton in Louisiana during the 5 year period 1935-39 was about 30 percent smaller than during the 5 years 1928-32, total production of cotton on this reduced acreage was about 3 percent larger.

Figures compiled from reports of the Federal Crop Reporting Board show that cotton production in Louisiana on an annual average of 1,869,000 acres during 1928-32 was 745,000 bales a year as compared with an average of 769,000 bales produced on 1,312,000 acres during 1935-39. The average yield per acre for the State increased from 193 pounds to 283 pounds, a 47 percent increase.

"Higher production per acre with a resulting reduction in unit costs has always been the ambition of good farmers," Director Bateman says. "The fact that farmers have been producing more cotton on almost one-third less acreage means better farming is being practiced and it is resulting in a lower cost of production."

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COTTON PRODUCTS EXPORT PROGRAM TO BE CONTINUED

The program under which payments are made to assist the exportation of cotton products will be continued in 1940-41, the Surplus Marketing Administration announced recently. The continuing program will operate on the same basis, and under the same provisions, as the program that has been in effect during recent months. The rates of payment are also the same as those that applied on June 30 for exports of cotton products under the 1939-40 program. Under that program, total sales and deliveries of cotton as of July 1, 1940, reached 6,366,221 bales, including cotton products equivalent to 504,020 bales.

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WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORT PROGRAMS TO CONTINUE

Continuation into the 1940-41 fiscal year of the wheat and wheat flour export program was announced recently by the Surplus Marketing Administration of the Department of Agriculture. The continuing programs will follow the provisions and plan of operation of the programs that have been in effect during recent months. The programs will be operative to assist exportation from the Pacific Northwest, to help meet the special problem of accumulated wheat surpluses in that area.

GERMINATION LABELING FOR GRASS SEED IS SUSPENDED

The requirements of the Federal Seed Act with respect to labeling new crop Kentucky bluegrass and bent grass seed for germination have been suspended, the Agricultural Marketing Service announced recently. The suspension applies to 1940 crop seed and will be in effect from August 5, 1940, to September 30, 1940. Suspension of this requirement under the Act has been made to facilitate the movement of 1940 seed of those grasses to areas where it may be needed for fall seeding to supplement what may be below-normal carry-over stocks of seed from the 1939 crop. All other labeling requirements of the Act remain in effect.

Suspension of the "labeling for germination" requirement for seed of these two grasses constitutes an amendment to regulations under Section 201 (a) (8) of the Act. The suspension has been ordered to make available for fall planting seeds that otherwise could not be merchandised in time for fall seeding if shipment were delayed until full germination tests could be made. To meet similar situations in the future, efforts are being made to develop a germination test that will be satisfactory for use with freshly harvested seed of Kentucky bluegrass and bent grass seed.

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NEW AMS OFFICE AT CHICAGO TO HANDLE PACA COMPLAINTS

A midwestern office to handle complaints and investigations under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities, Produce Agency, and Standard Containers Acts will be opened at Chicago July 8, the Agricultural Marketing Service recently announced. The new office will investigate complaints originating under the Acts in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, eastern Kansas, eastern Nebraska, and the eastern Dakotas, regardless of the location of firms and individuals named in the complaints.

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PHILADELPHIA POULTRY DEALER FINED UNDER PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT

Operating a poultry business in violation of an order suspending her license recently brought a fine of \$500 to Mary J. Levit, Philadelphia, owner of the Albert Poultry and Egg Company. The fine, resulting from an action under the Packers and Stockyards Act, was suspended when Mrs. Levit and her husband, Albert J. Levit, agreed not to engage directly or indirectly in the live poultry business for a period of three years. The license of the company was suspended for failure to keep proper books and records, and an unsatisfactory financial condition. The conclusion of this case marks the first time a licensee has agreed to quit business providing a fine be suspended.

--PERTAINING TO MARKETING--

The following publications, issued during June, may be obtained upon request to the Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, D. C.

Dealer Service in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Industry...
By J. W. Park

The Significance of Cotton Fiber Properties With Respect to Utilization...By Robert W. Webb (Address)

Farm Production, Farm Disposition, and Value of Certain Fruits and Nut Crops, 1937-1939

Regulations and Instructions Governing Origin Verification of Alfalfa and Red Clover Seed

Car-lot Unloads of Certain Fruits and Vegetables in 66 Cities and Imports in 4 Cities for Canada, 1939

Standards:

Tentative U. S. standards for grades of the following canned fruits and vegetables have become effective: apples, asparagus, beets, blackberries, carrots, red sour pitted cherries, sweet cherries, peaches, pears, plums, and red raspberries.

Official U. S. standards have been promulgated for sweet cherries, for export for brining.

Market Summaries:

Western New York Potatoes, 1939-40

Florida Celery, 1940

Florida Citrus, 1939-40

Florida Snap Beans, 1939-40

South Florida Tomatoes, 1940

Lake Okeechobee Cabbage (Florida), 1940

South Florida Green Peas, 1940

South Florida Potatoes, 1940

Florida Tomatoes and Cucumbers, 1940

Florida Potatoes (Hastings Section) 1940

Alabama Potatoes, 1940

Mississippi Vegetables, 1940

Texas Vegetables, 1939-40

Lower Rio Grande Valley Citrus (Texas) 1939-40

Imperial Valley Cantaloups (California) 1939

Lettuce, Cauliflower, and Peas (Washington) 1939

Northwestern Fresh Prunes, 1939

Wholesale Market Prices at San Francisco, 1939

Interstate Shipments of California Grapes, 1939

Northwest Unloads of Fruit and Vegetables in 66 Cities, 1939

